(ii) Increase in the limit in respect of dividend income upto Rs. 2500 received from each company or a mutual fund for tax deduction at source for senior citizens and investors.

(iii) Life insurance premia to be totally exempt from serivce tax.

(iv) The Government propose to shortly offer a new scheme of tax-free bond with enhanced monetary ceiling which will have an interest rate of 7 per cent and a maturity period of 6 years.

Cadre restructuring of Directorates of Income tax

2143. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while restructuring the cadre of income-tax Department, the cadres of Directorates of Income-tax were not restructured;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal for restructuring the cadres of Directorates of Income-tax;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Priority was accorded in the restructuring exercise to those areas of work which contribute directly to increase in revenue realization.

A separate exercise for restructuring of the Directorates and their cadres is under way. It would not be practical to indicate a precise time-frame for its completion.

Excise duty on medicines

†2144. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for heavy increase in excise duty on medicines is under Government's consideration;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.